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BOOK-NOTICES.

[All publications received, which relate directly or indirectly to the Old Testament, will be promptly noticed under this head. Attention will not be confined to new books; but notices will be given, so far as possible, of such old books, in this department of study, as may be of general interest to pastors and students.]

THE COMPREHENSIVE COMMENTARY ON THE QURAN.*

The plan adopted by Mr. Wherry in preparing his comprehensive Commentary on the Quran is thus stated in his preface :

1. To present Sale's translation of the Quran in the form of the Arabic original, indicating the *Sipara*, *Surat*, *Ruqu of the Sipara*, *Ruqu of the Surat*, etc., as they are in the best Oriental editions.

2. To number the verses as they are in the Roman Uerdu edition of Maulvi Abdul Qadir's translation. This arrangement will be of special benefit to missionaries in India.

3. To exhibit in the notes and comments the views of the best Muslim commentaries. Much has also been culled from the best European writers on Islam.

4. To the above is prefixed Sale's Preliminary Discourse, with additional notes and emendations.

These notes and emendations are essential to a correct understanding of the Quran by English readers. Sale's translation partakes so much of a personal exposition or interpretation that it gives us his views of the Quran, rather than the Quran, pure and simple. And modern research has brought to light many things concerning the history of the Arabs which greatly modify many of Sale's statements. Mr. Wherry has supplied the needed corrections. His judicious comments "call special attention to certain doctrines of the Quran, *e. g.*, its testimony to the genuineness and credibility of the Christian Scriptures current in the days of Muhammed ; the evidence it affords to its own character as a fabrication ; its testimony to the imposture of the Arabian prophet, in his professing to attest the *Former Scriptures*, while denying almost every cardinal doctrine of the same,—in his putting into the mouth of God garbled statements as to Scripture history, prophecy, and doctrine, to suit the purposes of his prophetic pretensions,—and in his appealing to Divinity to sanction his crimes against morality and decency." Mr. Wherry has performed his work in a most scholarly manner. His edition of the Quran is undoubtedly the best.

A STUDY OF THE PENTATEUCH.

One of the best points in connection with this book is the fact that it is intended *for popular reading*. Ministers, we think, would be greatly surprised did they know how familiar to their parishioners the questions discussed in this book, and others of a similar nature have become within a few years. This is lost sight

* A comprehensive Commentary on the Quran: Comprising Sale's Translation and Preliminary Discourse, with additional Notes and Emendations, together with a complete Index to the Text, Preliminary Discourse, and Notes, By the Rev. E. M. Wherry, M. A., vol. I., and vol. 29 in the English and Foreign Philosophical Library. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1882. Price, \$4.50.